

March 12, 2010 Issue

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#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The warmer weather we've had this week is one sure sign that spring is nearly here. Another sign is the proliferation of potholes, which are really symptomatic of another, larger issue: Lack of funding for our roads, bridges and transit systems.

In mid-February, transit officials from across the state, including MAX, met with elected officials in Lansing to ask for their support of new legislation that would fund the reinvestment and rebuilding of our state's transportation infrastructure. Yes, the three-bill package includes a tax increase -- 4 pennies more on a gallon of gas.

Before you protest too loudly, understand that if the state cannot find a quick revenue source to fund transportation, we stand to lose over \$450 million in federal grants over several years. Michigan already is a "donor state." We send more money to Washington than what we get back. Our tax dollars are being redistributed to other states that can afford the 20% matching share.

If you use or support public transit, please call your legislator toll-free at (800) 719-3087. Tell them to support this new legislation and the recommendations made in the TF2 Report to fund transit. We can't afford not to invest in public transportation. MAX has made so many service improvements in the past few years. Let's keep moving in the right direction -- and steer clear of the potholes.

#### MAX Meets with Elected Officials in Lansing

MAX staff met with Reps. Arlan Meekoff and Joe Haveman and a representative from Sen. Wayne Kuipers office in mid-February at a legislative breakfast sponsored by the Michigan Public Transportation Association. Citing declines in revenue from lower state funding and declining property values, MAX staff urged elected officials to support legislation funding state transportation.



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## 2009 Annual Report Available Online

Our 2009 Annual Report is available to view and print online. Click here to access the report. [2009 Annual Report](#)

## MAX Receives 2010 Communitas Award

It's the Latin word for "people coming together for the benefit of the community": *Communitas*. The Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals annually bestows their Communitas Award on businesses and organizations that unselfishly give of their time and resources to benefit their communities.



MAX transit is thrilled to have been among the many well known companies and organizations that received the 2010 award. The MAX was given the recognition for its annual "Stuff the Bus" Food Drive, in which food donations are collected from passengers and the general public to restock the food pantry at Community Action House. MAX has sponsored the Stuff the Bus Food Drive for six years. For more information about the award, visit [the Communitas Award website](#).

## FTA Livability Grant Submitted for 'Green' Projects

The MAX Authority submitted an application to the Federal Transit Administration requesting \$196,000 for a new geothermal HVAC system to replace the aging boiler at the Padnos Center. It also requested funding for a new rainwater



collection system. Rainwater would be recycled and used for irrigating the landscaping and for use in bathroom toilets at the Center. A total of \$150 million is available in FTA grant funding for projects that foster more liveable, sustainable communities by investing in transit systems. The FTA will announce the grant recipients this summer.

## Mobile Data Computer Project Underway

Installation of mobile data computers and related software for MAX's new wireless information technology system begins in early April. Up to five buses will have new MDCs as part of the pilot test. The technology will provide real time communications and data between drivers and dispatch, paperless manifests, automated vehicle location/GPS and scheduling rides on the fly. Computers will be installed on all 28 vehicles in MAX's fleet. This technology will allow MAX to operate more efficiently, reduce costs, and improve quality of services for greater customer satisfaction.



The Authority in January awarded a \$191,474 contract to RouteMatch of Atlanta, Ga., for the purchase and installation of the ITS hardware and software. The project should be complete by late May or early June.

## Doubly Green for the St. Patty's Day Parade Mar. 13

We'll be getting into the spirit for this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Holland beginning at the Civic Center at noon. "MAX" the kangaroo mascot will be meandering the parade route along 8th street giving away shamrock lollipops and "Save the Planet-Ride the Bus" button to everyone Irish (or Irish for the day).



## MAX Given 'Clean' Audit by Rehmann Robson

The accounting and auditing firm of Rehmann Robson of Grand Rapids announced that the MAX Authority's financial statements and practices for fiscal year 2009 were "all clean." The firm audited MAX against federal OMB standards in January 2010 as part of a routine required assessment, and found full compliance with all federal requirements.



## New Set of Watchful 'Eyes'

New security cameras have been installed on all of MAX's buses to provide more detailed and continuous video footage of activities inside and directly in front of the bus. The cameras are useful for monitoring driver performance and passenger behavior, and conducting investigations in the event of an incident, accident or passenger complaint. Radio Engineering, Inc. of Omaha supplied and installed the cameras after winning the project in a competitive bid process. The old cameras needed to be replaced as they were owned by MV Transportation, and MAX's contract with the service provider ends on June 30, 2010.

## 'April Showers' Bus Pass Special!



Buy a Monthly Bus Pass from MAX for use during the month of April and receive a free compact travel tote umbrella, a \$16 value.

Passes must be purchased at the Padnos Center MAX Office to qualify for the free gift. Online purchases not eligible. One gift per person.

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